GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4103
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
REFORMING OF POSTAL SYSTEM IN RURAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to reform the postal system in rural areas as reported in the Hindi Daily Rashtriya Sahara dated March 23, 2005;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether a number of post offices in the rural areas, particularly in Uttar Pradesh are functioning with temporary Dak Sevaks, and operating from rented buildings/private houses;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of districts, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, where post offices have been opened in 2004-05;

(f) the number of districts where post offices have been computerized, State-wise; and

(g) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for expansion of postal services in rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) The report in Rashtriya Sahara dated 23.3.05 focuses on the need for better Postal facilities in the suburbs of Modi Nagar, to cater to the increasing needs due to the growth of new urban centres, new educational institutions etc. Post Offices are opened subject to compliance of distance, population and income norms and availability of resources, and this is an ongoing process.

(c) & (d) Extra Departmental Post Offices (EDBOs) function from the premises provided by the Branch Postmaster. This is one of the conditions of his service and appointment, and for which he is paid an allowance.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) So far computers have been provided to 2372 large post offices. State-wise details are given in the Annexure.

(g) Post Offices will continue to be provided in locations that justify the three norms, subject to availability of resources. The Department is also engaged in exploring more cost-effective options for providing access to Postal services in consonance with the policy initiatives under the 10th Plan.

Annexure

State-wise number of post offices where computers have been provided till 2004-05

S.No.	Circles	No. of post offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	170
2.	Assam	110
3.	Bihar	57
4.	Chhattisgarh	44
5.	Delhi	150
6.	Gujarat	131
7.	Haryana	48
8.	Himachal Pradesh	40
9.	J & K	68
10.	Jharkhand	33
11.	Kerala	173
12.	Karnataka	137
13.	Madhya Pradesh	61
14.	Maharashtra#	252
15.	North East##	65

16. Orissa 60
17. Punjab 54
18. Rajasthan 163
19. Tamilnadu 225
20 Uttar Pradesh 114
21. Uttaranchal 31
22. West Bengal 186
Total 2372

Includes Goa
Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram & Manipur

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